



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

MEDIA ALERT

Wednesday: 11 March 2026

OVER R25 MILLION WORTH OF ILLICIT AND COUNTERFEIT GOODS FOUND IN NIRVANA, POLOKWANE.

Over 25 Million rand of illicit cigarettes and counterfeit goods discovered in Nirvana, Polokwane. The discovery was made during Joint Compliance Inspections by Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Department, Limpopo Consumer Protection, National Consumer Commission, SAPS, Regulators and Consumer Affairs representatives from other Provinces.

Amongst the illicit cigarettes, the warehouse also contained overwhelming amounts of energy drinks, vapes, toilet paper, condoms, paracetamol as well as many other daily household necessities.

Illicit or counterfeit products undermine legitimate businesses operating within the Province, pose serious health and safety risk to consumers, and most importantly, such products suppresses' growth of our Provincial economy, and contributes to high rates of unemployment.

The Department is confident that this is not an isolated incident, but there should be many other warehouses within Polokwane and across the Province. The Joint Compliance Inspections will be intensified for the rest of the year as the Department intends to break records in the confiscating and destroying of illicit and counterfeit goods as well as arrests for all those found in possession such goods.

MEC Tshitereke Matibe has applauded the discovery as a right step towards turning the tide against unfair business practices. He has further called on law enforcement officials to adopt harsh tactics against all businesses found with illicit and counterfeit goods, strategically designed to deceive consumers.

For more information, please contact:

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